

Please amend claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 12, 13 and 15 as follows:

C1 1. (Twice Amended) A device comprising an adapter block for seating on a laboratory magnetic stirrer and having a recess in the base thereof for receiving an upper portion of the stirrer, the adapter block containing fixing means for holding a plurality of reaction vessels, wherein when the adapter block is co-operatively positioned on a magnetic stirrer within a magnetic field generated by the magnetic stirrer, each and every position for holding a reaction vessel is effectively located for stirring with respect to the magnetic field, with the center of each vessel distributed around the recess outside the periphery of the recess, and wherein the adapter block is structurally removable from the laboratory magnetic stirrer without removing a fastener.

C2 3. (Once Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein the adapter block incorporates guide means to ensure that each and every position for holding a reaction vessel is effectively located for equivalent stirring.

C3 6. (Once Amended) A device according to claim 1 further comprising a condenser unit operatively connected to the adapter block.

C4 10. (Once Amended) A device according to claim 1 further comprising a gas manifold operatively connected to the adapter block.

C5 11. (Twice Amended) A magnetic stirrer fitted with an adapter block wherein the adapter block includes a recess in the base thereof for receiving an upper portion of the stirrer in which a magnetic field is generated, and includes fixing means for holding a plurality of reaction vessels with their centers distributed around the recess outside the

periphery of the recess, and wherein the adapter block is positioned within the magnetic field generated by the magnetic stirrer such that each and every socket is effectively positioned for stirring with respect to the magnetic field.

C5 12. (Twice Amended) A magnetic stirrer according to claim 11 further comprising a hotplate operatively connected to the magnetic stirrer and a condenser unit operatively connected to the adapter block.

C6 13. (Once Amended) A magnetic stirrer fitted with an adapter block wherein the adapter block contains fixing means for holding a plurality of reaction vessels, the adapter block positioned within the magnetic field generated by the magnetic stirrer such that each and every socket of the fixing means is effectively positioned for stirring with respect to a magnetic field generated by the magnetic stirrer, and further comprising a condenser unit operatively connected to the adapter block.

C7 15. (Once Amended) A device according to claim 14, wherein the centers of the reaction vessels are distributed around the recess outside the periphery of the recess.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending after the above amendments, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended. Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner, Brian R. Gordon, and the Examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden, for the telephonic interview conducted on October 16, 2002.

The Examiner has objected to the originally filed specification for not containing the section headings as described in 37 C.F.R. § 1.77(b). In response to this objection,